

Preface

The National Intelligence Council (NIC) is undertaking a systematic research and development program on broad, crosscutting issues for the next millennium; this constitutes the DCI's Strategic Estimates Program. One of these strategic estimates focuses on developing a better understanding of the future course of the information revolution throughout the world over the next 10-20 years.

The NIC has asked RAND to take the lead in this effort to chart the future course of the information revolution. As a major part of this effort, RAND is convening a series of international conferences on various aspects of the information revolution. The first of these conferences, focusing on societal trends driven by the information revolution, as they are unfolding in different areas of the world, was held in Washington, D.C., in November 1999. The proceedings of this conference were published in Hundley and others (2000). The second conference in this series, focused on the technology drivers of the information revolution, was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in May 2000. The proceedings of that conference were published in Anderson and others (2000).

The third conference in this series, focused on the information revolution in Latin America, was held in Washington, D.C., in November 2000. This report contains the proceedings of this third conference. For sharpness of presentation, it presents most arguments as statements, not as "one participant argued." Often, arguments were overstated for effect, to provoke thought, and this report points out those instances.

This research is sponsored by the National Intelligence Council, and monitored by the National Intelligence Officer (NIO) for Science and Technology. It is being conducted by the Acquisition and Technology Policy Center of RAND's National Defense Research Institute (NDRI). NDRI is a federally funded research and development center sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, the defense agencies, and the unified commands.